



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2000

No. 91

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 17, 2000, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2000

The Senate met at 9:01 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, our days of work and nights of rest run together. We need You. We praise You for Your love that embraces us and gives us security, Your joy that uplifts us and gives us resiliency, Your peace that floods our hearts and gives us serenity, and the presence of Your Spirit that fills us and gives us strength and endurance.

We dedicate this day to You. Help us to realize that it is by Your permission that we breathe our next breath and by Your grace that we are privileged to use all the gifts of intellect and judgment that You provide. Give the Senators and all of us who work with them a perfect blend of humility and hope, so that we will know that You have given us all that we have and are and have chosen to bless us this day. Our choice is to respond and commit ourselves to You. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. L. CHAFEE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, today the Senate will begin the final votes on the Death Tax Elimination Act. There are nine votes on amendments and a vote on final passage of the bill. Senators should be aware that all votes after the first vote will be limited to 10 minutes in an effort to expedite the process. Following the votes, the Senate will begin consideration of the reconciliation bill. Under a previous agreement, all Senators who have amendments must debate their amendments during today's session with votes scheduled to occur at approximately 6:15 p.m. on Monday, July 17.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2869

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I do understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (S. 2869) to protect religious liberty, and for other purposes.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the rule, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from Nevada.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding this first vote will be 15 minutes and the votes thereafter 10 minutes; is that true?

Mr. ROTH. That is correct.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DASCHLE be excused from today's proceedings under rule VI, paragraph 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DODD be excused from today's proceedings under rule VI, paragraph 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEATH TAX ELIMINATION ACT OF 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 8, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period.

Pending:

Kerry amendment No. 3839, to establish a National Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the development of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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